Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO)

What It Is

The purpose of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program's ETO Initiative is to foster the development of tools and processes that support transportation systems operators during a wide range of emergencies. The ultimate goal is to promote faster and better prepared responses to major incidents and evacuations.

This initiative, in partnership with the public safety community, State and local departments of transportation, public transportation service providers and emergency managers, has focused on:
- Engaging a wide range of stakeholders to determine their needs.
- Applying ITS to support safe and efficient transportation operations during emergencies.
- Planning for and managing a wide range of transportation-related emergencies including those requiring evacuation.

Current Status

The ETO Initiative is in the process of closing out. Products and findings are being finalized for publication and posting to the ITS website. A review of the ETO Initiative has resulted in follow-on projects for the coming year.

The Year Ahead

Proposed emergency transportation operations and management opportunities are being reviewed for development of a multi-faceted, follow-on project to the initiative. These include:
- Finalizing, packaging, marketing and distributing products developed as a reference set for use by evacuation planners. These include reports titled "Application of Technology to Transportation Operations in Bio-Hazard Situations," "Low-Cost Evacuation Route Surveillance" and "Communicating with the Public Using ATIS During Disasters: Guidance for Practitioners."
- Developing a guidance document to assist agencies in the selection of evacuation modeling tools to best meet their needs and resources.
- Developing a document with suggested technical adjustments to create communication connectivity between transportation operations centers and local emergency operations centers. This will enhance local emergency management attempts to obtain real-time traffic information while orchestrating an evacuation or other emergency transportation operations.

For more information go to: http://www.its.dot.gov/eto/eto_overview.htm.